

AINO, gen. nov. Libellulidarum.

Nannophya, Kirb. Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond. xii. p. 313 (1889), nec Ramb.

As this genus is fully characterized in the journal quoted the characters need not here be repeated.

Aino puella, sp. n.

Nannophya pygmaea, Kirb. (nec Ramb.), Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond. xii. p. 313, pl. lvi. fig. 7 (1889), neuration only.

Exp. al. 27–28 millim., long. corp. 17 millim.

Male.—Head and thorax clothed with rather long hairs. Face chocolate-brown, bordered above and on the upper part of the sides with ivory-white; frontal tubercle bronzy green, and surmounted by a crest of black bristles, the face being clothed with shorter ones. Occiput black, shining, with two white contiguous dots behind the occipital triangle. Thorax pulverulent blue; abdomen and legs black. Wings hyaline; pterostigma rusty brown.

Female.—Head as in male; thorax and legs reddish chocolate; a V-shaped spot on the back of the mesothorax; mesothorax with a yellow stripe on each side above and the greater part of the pleura yellow; traversed obliquely by a chocolate-coloured stripe, connected in front with the dark colouring above and below, and swelling out into a large dark spot in the middle; abdomen black, with yellow bands, gradually diminishing, at the base of the first five segments above, and the appendages and the space between yellow. Wings tinged with yellow at the base as far as the triangles.

Locality unknown (Malay Archipelago?).

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Notes on Sport and Ornithology. By His Imperial and Royal Highness the late CROWN PRINCE RUDOLF of Austria. Translated, with the Author's permission, by C. G. DANFORD. Gurney and Jackson.

Most of those ornithologists who were familiar with the German language had read with pleasure the account of an excursion made by the Crown Prince along the Upper Danube in the latter part of April 1878, chiefly made known through his companions Dr. A. E.

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Brehm and the late E. F. von Homeyer, while Prof. A. von Pelzeln was allowed to publish extracts from the narrative of 'Fünfzehn Tage auf der Donau,' printed for private circulation. In 1879 similar sketches were given of a recent visit to Spain and Portugal; 'Eine Orient Reise' followed, with a graphic description of a journey up the Nile to Nubia, and afterwards through Palestine; other articles, chiefly on ornithology, subsequently made their appearance, and finally all these papers were published in one volume. Mr. Danford, as a brother sportsman and ornithologist, was strongly impressed by the freshness and originality of the observations made by the young author, whose permission to translate the work was obtained, and the task, which was a labour of love, was already far advanced when the sad death of the Crown Prince took place. Mr. Danford's familiarity with many of the localities mentioned, as well as with the technicalities of natural history and sport, coupled with his knowledge of German, have enabled him to render the author's exact meaning and even to reproduce his vivacious turns of phrase with a fidelity which calls for our highest admiration.

Everyone will, we think, enjoy the description of the marshy low-lying woods of the Danube and their profusion of bird-life; while if the destruction of White-tailed Eagles, Vultures, Black Storks, &c. at their breeding-places seems too prominent a feature, it must be remembered that the nests to which the Crown Prince was taken were those known to the foresters and comparatively easy of access, whereas ten times as many lay hidden at some distance away from his route. In the Fruška-Gora, Homeyer shot a Griffon Vulture from its nest on an oak, the only instance with which we are acquainted of a tree being selected by that cliff-haunting species, though the Black Vulture, which was met with in the same locality, always nests in a tree. An interesting account is given of the remarkable antipathy felt by the "Stein" Eagles for the Black Vulture, which they attack on every possible occasion; from the description we are inclined to believe that the aggressors are immature Golden Eagles which, having as yet no domestic cares, employ their time in persecuting the Vultures. As regards the identity of the Pigmy and the Booted Eagles the Author's experience coincides with our own, and it is surprising that different views should have been entertained for so long a time in certain quarters.

The visit of the Crown Prince to Spain in 1879 was of brief duration, and some of the assertions set forth in this work must charitably be set down to inexperience. With regard to the distribution and numbers of the Bearded Vulture, a rude and flat contradiction is given to an ornithologist who had certainly passed more months among the haunts of that bird than the Crown Prince had spent days; and upon this point we may therefore quote the independent testimony of Lord Lilford, who is unrivalled for his acquaintance with birds of prey in all parts of the Peninsula:—"I have noticed this [the Bearded] Vulture in almost every province of Spain that I have visited. A pair are generally to be found breeding in the neighbourhood of every establishment of Griffons,

and when the latter birds have picked the bones of a carcass bare, the Bearded Vultures come down and, swallowing the smaller bones, carry off the larger into the air, and, letting them drop from a great height upon the rocks, devour the fragments at their leisure." Moreover, not content with dwelling upon the supposed rarity of this species in Spain, the Crown Prince goes on to say that "in all high mountains, whether situated in Central or Southern Europe, Northern Africa, or Central Asia, it is very much the reverse [of common];" yet, on p. 566, he tells us that it still inhabits the Retyezát, Transylvania, "in considerable numbers"! The statement that the Spanish "Stein" Eagle is characterized by "a white tail tipped with black" is quite misleading, and can only apply to immature examples, for in adult Golden Eagles from Spain the rectrices are just like those in Scottish specimens. The fact is that in Spain the Crown Prince was forced, like everyone else in that country, to try and find things out for himself; whereas on the Danube and throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire he was naturally a great personage, for whom everything was, to use a vulgar phrase, "cut and dried" by obsequious proprietors and foresters. In saying this we do not for one moment wish to detract from his merits as a sportsman and a naturalist, for he was undoubtedly both. He never shunned hard work, and the reader will be struck by his wonderful energy, keen enjoyment of wild life and scenery, and his exuberant animal spirits, these features being especially noticeable in the descriptions of the visit to the Danube, the journey to the East, and the sketches from Hungary, Transylvania, &c. On the whole the book is very interesting, though the style is somewhat wordy and monotonous, a fault which the translator was unable to rectify. For the rest, Mr. Danford has performed his task with great ability and is entitled to the thanks of all true naturalists; the general style of the volume is admirable, and the type is bold and clear.

The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by W. T. BLANFORD. *Fishes*, by FRANCIS DAY. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Taylor and Francis, 1889.

ABOUT a twelvemonth ago we noticed the commencement of this valuable series of Handbooks of Indian Zoology, on the publication of the first part of Dr. W. T. Blanford's account of Indian Mammalia. As then indicated the task of describing the Fishes had been entrusted to Dr. Francis Day, whose great illustrated work, 'The Fishes of India,' was already established as the authority on this part of the Fauna of our Eastern Empire, and in the course of the year which has just terminated the two volumes devoted to the class Pisces have made their appearance. These volumes must be regarded with a somewhat melancholy interest not only because they are the last records of a life, many years of which were zealously devoted to the study of the subjects of which they treat, but also from the consideration that the author did not even live to